Does Sustainable Design Cost More?



Recent Studies that Address the Question of Cost

- California study of 33 LEED Buildings, October, 2003:
 - "The Costs and Financial Benefits of Green Buildings"
 A Report to California's Sustainable Building Task Force
- FEMP study, October, 2003
 - "The Business Case for Sustainable Design in Federal Facilities"
- October 2003 USGBC GreenBuild Conference
 - "Defining LEED Costs for the USGSA"
 - "Managing the Cost of LEED"
- November 2003: Retroactive cost analysis for 3 Fermilab projects
- Ongoing Green Building List Serve Topic

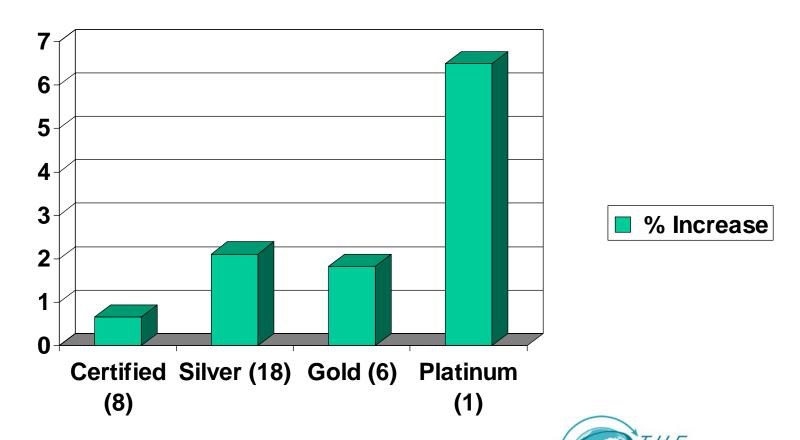


Challenges to Costing

- Many green buildings are one-time "showcase" projects
- There's a learning curve cost for the first green building
 - Of a client
 - Of a design/architectural firm
- Relative newness of technologies and products can lead to over-sizing of systems or limited use of products, losing full cost benefits
- Estimators may add uncertainty factors for new technologies they are not familiar with



Average Cost Premium vs. Level of Certification



Evidence of the Learning Curve

- Portland's 3 LEED Silver Buildings
 - 1995: 2% premium
 - 1997: 1% premium
 - 2000: 0% premium
- City of Seattle
 - Program onset (several years ago): 3-4% premium
 - Today: 1-2% premium



"Silver for Free" if....

- LEED Silver is required in the RFQ for the design team and embedded within construction documents, building construction, and commissioning;
- Design Team has sustainable design embedded within their culture
- Contractors, Property Managers, Real Estate Analysts, Budget Analysist, Crew Chiefs and Custodians are included on the Design Team.
- Selected strategies are "whole system" in nature and integrated design solutions are pursued that cannot be peeled off from the base project as "add alternates".



Costs are Reasonable When You Consider...

- Life cycle costs are below conventional buildings (2% first cost yields 20% life cycle savings)
- Better design reduces change orders
- Advanced energy efficiency for pennies per square foot
- On average, green buildings use 30% less energy than conventional buildings



FEMP Highlights

www.eere.energy.gov/femp/techassist/sustainability.html#business

Beyond first costs to Life Cycle Costs:

- Decreased energy and water costs
- Lower maintenance and repair costs
- Reduced absenteeism and increased productivity
- Increased building valuation
- Health, comfort and well-being of occupants
- Building safety and security, decreased insurance rates
- Lower air emissions
- Reduced solid waste generation
- Decrease natural resource use



Common Cost Inflators

- Lack of a clear green design goal
- Mid-stream attempts to incorporate green
- Decentralized management of the process
- Lack of experience with LEED
- Insufficient Time/Money



Managing the Costs

Don't even think of LEED unless...

- You have support from senior decision makers
- LEED can be started during conceptual design
- The project scope is significant, including systems and finishes
- The project can meet all of the prerequisites

LEED Documentation Costs...

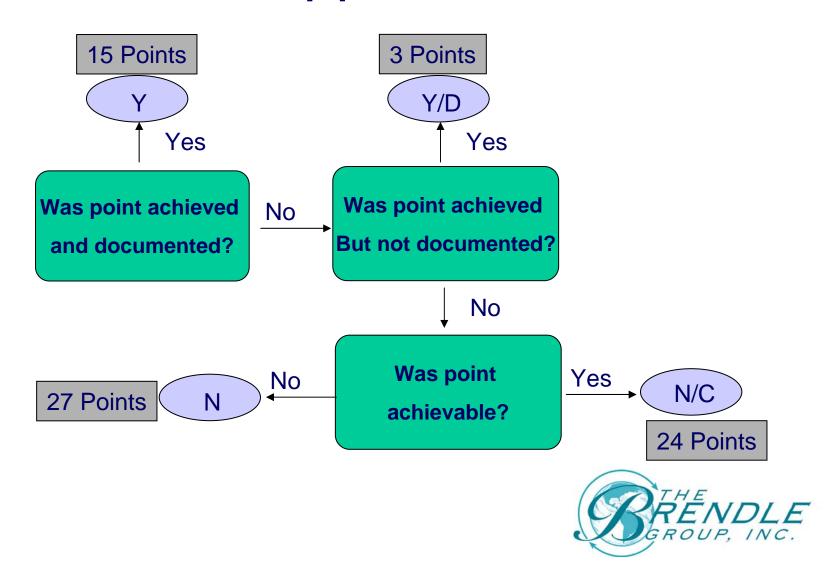
- As low as \$10,000 for an experienced team
- Most first-timers report costs of \$30,000 \$60,000





Cost Analysis for Lab-BEG

Approach



Costing Methods/Assumptions

- Feasibility-level cost estimates
 - Supplier quotes
 - Central Supply Facility Experience
- For each item costed, we considered:
 - Capital
 - Fermilab staff (@\$75/hour)
 - A/E hours (@\$75/hour)
 - Commissioning costs (@\$75/hour)
 - LEED documentation costs (@\$75/hour)
 - Lab Tax (@19%)



Revised Score - Prerequisites

Starting Score: 15 Ending Score: 32

Prerequisite	Recommendation	Cost	Revised Score
EA 1	Add'l documentation for bldg cx	\$ 9,890	Yes
MR 1	Add glass to recycling service	\$0	Yes



Revised Score – SS/WE/EA Credits

Starting Score: 15 Ending Score: 32

Credit	Recommendation	Cost	Revised Score
SS 4.2	Add bike rack, convert showers	\$ 2,266	1
SS 4.4	Stripping and signage	\$ 460	1
SS 5.2	Add 350 ft2 to contractor's area	\$ 0	1
SS 7.2	Galvalume Energy Star roof	(\$15,000)	1
SS 8	Add shielding, change spacing	\$ 2,760	1
WE 2	Piping sinks to stormwater line	\$ 2,760	1
WE 3.1	See WE 3.2	\$ 0	1
WE 3.2	Waterless urinals, low flow faucets	\$ 1,600	1
EA 1.1	Inhouse DOE2 modeling	\$ 2,463	2



Revised Score - MR/IEQ/ID Credits

Starting Score: 15 Ending Score: 32

Credit	Recommendation	Cost	Revised Score
MR 2.1	Develop/add Waste Mmgt plan, calcs	\$ 2,463	1
MR 4.1	Add 25% Recycled Content to project	\$ 1,265	1
MR 5.1	Add 25% Recycled Content to project	\$ 1,265	1
MR 5.1	See MR 5.1.	\$ 0	1
IEQ 7.2	Add rh sensor to control system	\$ 2,053	1
ID 1.2	Increase local mat'ls to 40%	\$ 1,265	1
ID 1.4	Show 29% downsize in scope	\$ 0	1

